

Serial No.: 09/501,947

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant again acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 19-23.¹

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended herein so as to include, *inter alia*, all of the features of allowed claim 19. Accordingly, claim 1 should also now be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 19. In addition, remaining claims 2-7, 9-18 and 24-31 each depend from claim 1 either directly or indirectly. Thus, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

As a result, all claims 1-7 and 9-31 should now be in condition for allowance. The rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are now moot in view of the above amendments. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

Claims 1-7 and 9-31 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

¹Applicant wishes to point out an inconsistency in the Office Action mailed on June 17, 2003. The Office Action Summary (PTO-326) identifies claims 19-29 as being allowed, whereas the body of the Office Action refers only to claims 19-23 as being allowed.

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Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP



Mark D. Saralino
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